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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
29 October 1962

In connection with the current negotiations between Acting Secretary General U Thant and representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States, and the Republic of Cuba, the Soviet Government has sent First Deputy Foreign Minister V.V. Kuznetsov to New York to help U Thant in his noble efforts aimed at eliminating the present dangerous situation.

Respectfully yours, N. Khrushchev, 28 October 1962.

Kennedy Reply to Khrushchev

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0842 GMT 29 October 1962--L

(Text) Washington--The American press and radio publishes the text of the reply of the U.S. President to the message of Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev of 28 October. The reply says:

Esteemed Mr. Chairman:

I am replying immediately to your message of 28 October, which was transmitted by radio, although I have not yet received the official text, because I attach tremendous significance to acting quickly with a view of solving the Cuban crisis. I think that you and I, recognizing our immense responsibilities for the maintenance of peace, realized the events were approaching a point where they might have got out of control. I therefore, welcome your message and consider it an important contribution to the cause of safeguarding peace.

The praiseworthy efforts of Acting Secretary General U Thant have considerably lightened your task and mine. I consider my letter to you of 27 October and your reply of today as firm pledges of both our governments which ought to be rapidly implemented. I hope that it will be possible through the United Nations to speedily take the necessary measures, as your message says, so that the United States, in its turn, will be able to cancel the quarantine measures now being carried out. I have already given instructions that all these questions be reported to the Organization of American States, whose members are profoundly interested in real peace in the Caribbean area.

In your letter you mention a violation of your frontier by an American airplane in the area of the Chukotka Peninsula. It has become known to me that this plane, which carried neither weapons nor photographic equipment, was taking air samples in connection with your nuclear tests. Its course lay directly from Eilson Air Force Base, in Alaska, to the North Pole, and back. On turning south the pilot made a serious navigational error, as a result of which he found himself over Soviet territory.

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He immediately requested urgent navigation aid on the open radio, and he was directed by the shortest route back to his base. I regret this incident and will see to it that every precaution is taken to prevent a recurrence.

Mr. Chairman, both our countries are faced with important unfinished tasks, and I know that both your people and the people of the United States wish nothing better than to continue to pursue them without fear of war. Modern science and technology have given us the opportunity to make our work tremendously fruitful. Only a few decades ago these opportunities were undreamed of.

I agree with you that we must urgently deal with the problem of disarmament in its worldwide aspect and also in the aspect of critical area. Perhaps now, when we are receding from danger, we shall be able to achieve real progress together in this vitally important field. I think that we ought to give priority to questions connected with the distribution of nuclear weapons throughout the world in outer space, and to a great effort for a nuclear test ban. But we ought also to exert great efforts to explore the possibility of reaching agreement on wider measures on disarmament and their speedy implementation.

The U.S. Government is prepared to discuss these questions immediately and in a constructive spirit, in Geneva or in any other place.

John Kennedy, 28 October 1962.

Kennedy Statement

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 1835 GMT 28 October 1962--L

(Text) Washington--The White House announced that President Kennedy welcomes the statement of the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Khrushchev.

Following is the text of President Kennedy's statement:

"I welcome Chairman Khrushchev's statesmanlike decision to stop building bases in Cuba, dismantling offensive weapons and returning them to the Soviet Union under U.N. verification. This is an important and constructive contribution to peace.

"We shall be in touch with the secretary general of the United Nations with respect to reciprocal measures to assure peace in the Caribbean area. It is my (warmest?) hope that the governments of the world can, with a solution of the Cuban crisis, turn their urgent attention to the compelling necessity for ending the arms race and reducing world tensions. This applies to the military confrontation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries as well as to other situations in other parts of the world where tensions lead to the wasteful diversion of resources to weapons of war."

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Brazilian Reaction

Moscow in Spanish to South America 0100 GMT 28 October 1962--W

(Text) Rio de Janeiro--President Joao Goulart has sent a letter to U.S. Ambassador Lincoln Gordon, to be transmitted to President Kennedy, in which he expresses vigorous opposition to any armed intervention against Cuba.

The governor of Rio Grande do Sul Province, Lionel Brizola, declared that the Brazilian representative to the Organization of American States had disobeyed instructions in voting for the blockade.

(Editor's Note: Moscow TASS English 0614 GMT 29 October adds: Prime Minister of Brazil Hermes Lima declared that Nikita Khrushchev's decision to dismantle military installations on Cuba is "the most eagerly awaited and happy news for the whole world." As reported by a UPI correspondent from Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian Prime Minister said, in his brief statement, that the message of the head of the Soviet Government to the U.S. President "puts an end to the Cuban crisis, saves world peace, and insures Cuba's territorial integrity.")

Castro Order on Overflights

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 0900 GMT 28 October 1962--L

(Text) Havana--The order of Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba Fidel Castro, made public here, emphasizes that under no circumstances will Cuba give its consent to the flights of any foreign military planes over its territory, since this violates its sovereignty and creates conditions for a surprise attack on Cuba. Any foreign military plane which violates the airspace of Cuba, the order says, can only meet "our certain fire."

The order ends with the slogan: "Homeland or Death, We Shall Win!"

29 OCT. REPORTS, COMMENT ON CUBAN CRISIS

Kennedy 27 Oct. Reply Published

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 0552 GMT 29 October 1962--L

(From the Press Review)

(Text) PRAVDA also gives the text of President Kennedy's message of 27 October in reply to N.S. Khrushchev's letter of 26 October and the American President's statement in which he acclaims Khrushchev's last message.